

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 IO-13

ACDA-07 SCCT-01 OMB-01 EUR-12 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /105 W  
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P R 191609Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1747

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 2677

BRASILIA FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS - MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BLANCO

SUMMARY: IN A FRANK DISCUSSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, FONMINISTER BLANCO, REFLECTING A HARDER LINE THAN IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS, CONFIRMED BOTH AN INCREASE OF TERRORIST THREAT IN URUGUAY (THROUGH OPR-33) AND A GREATER COOPERATION AGAINST TERRORISM WITH SOUTHERN CONE NEIGHBORS; CLAIMED THAT THE GOU HAS HIGHEST RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND TREATS SUBVERSIVE PRISONERS (ABOUT 2,000)TOTAL) FAR BETTER THAN ORDINARY CRIMINALS; NOTED THAT WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME "EXCESSES" HERE, THE GOU HAS NEVER, AS ARGENTINA APPEARS TO HAVE DONE, SET OUT TO COMBAT TERRORISM BY WHOLESALE ELIMINATION OF TERRORISTS; WAS NEGATIVE ON SUGGESTION THAT URUGUAY INVITE LAHRC TO INVESTIGATE; SAID THAT IF URUGUAY MET ALL POSSIBLE DEMANDS OF ACTIVISTS GROUPS THEY STILL WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED AS THEY USE HUMAN RIGHTS AS A DEVICE FOR OTHER OBJECTIVES; AND, FINALLY, SAID THE GOU WOULD  
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CONSIDER ISSUING A FULL, PUBLIC STATEMENT OF ITS POSITION ON

HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY RYAN MET FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR AND A HALF WITH FONMINISTER BLANCO AND DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY ALVAREZ ON JULY 17 AT FONMINISTRY. AFTER USUAL AMENITIES RYAN INTRODUCED THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS INDICATING THAT HOUSE SUB-COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS PLANNING HEARINGS ON URUGUAY IN EARLY AUGUST. AFTER OUTLINING DEVELOPMENT AND DEPTH OF CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF USG, RYAN STRESSED THE FACT THAT THIS CONCERN AND THE CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUED AS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF URUGUAY. CITING THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT SANTIAGO RYAN POINTED OUT THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR BASIC HUMAN VALUES AND THE TREATY OBLIGATIONS OF THE SIGNERS OF INTER-AMERICAN AND UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. RECALLING THE MANY SERIOUS CHARGES MADE AGAINST THE GOU IN RECENT HEARINGS ON THIS SAME SUB-COMMITTEE RYAN ASKED IF THE GOU HAD ANY IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT PRESENT AT THE HEARINGS AS OBJECTIVE AS POSSIBLE A VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN URUGUAY.

2. BLANCO EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR RANKNESS AND CANDOR OF THE DISCUSSION, WHICH HE NOTED WAS CHARACTERISTIC OF HIS PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR SIRACUSA. HE THEN OUTLINED GOU'S DEEP-SEATED TRADITION OF RESPECT AND CONCERN FOR THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS AND ITS LONG-STANDING RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. THIS INCLUDED REFERENCES TO GOU PROPOSALS AT THE UN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS TO PARALLEL THE UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGES. HE THEN REVIEWED THE BACKGROUND OF THE PRESENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN URUGUAY WHICH HAD UNFORTUNATELY REQUIRED THE GOU TO TAKE STRONG REPRESSIVE ACTIONS IN ORDER TO COUNTER INTERNATIONALLY-FUNDED AND DIRECTED TERRORISM AND SUBVERSION. ADMITTING THAT THERE UNDOUBTEDLY HAD BEEN EXCESSES IN ISOLATED CASES ON THE PART OF GOVERNMENT HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOU IS DETERMINED THAT THESE EXCESSES WILL NOT BE CONDONED. HE SAID THAT PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR EXCESSES IN THE PAST HAD BEEN RELIEVED AND THAT HE IS FULLY CONFIDENT THAT SUBVERSIVES IN URUGUAY TODAY ARE HANDLED IN ACCORD WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED NORMS. HE SAID THAT THE GOU, BECAUSE OF ITS SENSITIVITY TO INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR THE TREATMENT OF SUBVERSIVES, IS SPENDING MUCH MORE MONEY AND PROVIDING MUCH BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS FOR IMPRISONED SUBVERSIVES AND TERRORISTS THAN FOR COMMON CRIMINALS.

3. ASKED ABOUT THE NUMBER OF PRISONERS HELD IN SUBVERSIVE OR RELATED CHARGES, BLANCO AND ALVAREZ, IN UNISON, SAID IT WAS "ABOUT

2,000, NOT MORE". BLANCO WENT ON TO SAY THAT OF THIS NUMBER ABOUT 200 ARE "AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE", BY WHICH HE APPARENTLY MEANT PEOPLE CONSIDERED SO DANGEROUS THAT THEY ARE NOT FORMALLY CHARGED OR PROCESSED FOR TRIAL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOME 500 PERSONS ARRESTED ON SUBVERSIVE CHARGES HAD BEEN TRIED, SENTENCED AND, HAVING SERVED THEIR SENTENCES, HAD BEEN RELEASED.

4. TURNING THEN TO THE PROBLEM OF THE APPLICATION OF NORMAL JURIDICAL PROCEDURES BLANCO INDICATED THAT SIMPLY COULD NOT BE EXPECTED IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN URUGUAY. REITERATING THE GOU VIEW THAT THE TUPAMARO AND COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS ARE INTERNATIONALLY FUNDED, STAFFED AND DIRECTED HE STATED THAT MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS TRAINED AS TERRORISTS COULD AND WOULD NOT BE TREATED UNDER THE NORMAL JUDICIAL PROCEDURES AND ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES. AT THIS JUNCTURE HE STRESSED THAT EVEN

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /105 W

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P R 191609Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1748

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MONTEVIDEO 2677/2

THESE TERRORISTS ARE NOT SUBJECT VIOLATION OF THEIR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONTRAST TO THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WHERE IT IS BECOMING APPARENT THAT THE GOAL IS TO ELIMINATE TERRORISM BY PERMANENTLY

ELIMINATING THE TERRORISTS AND SUBVERSIVES.

5. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE PRESENT THREAT OF SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM THE MINISTER SAID THAT UNFORTUNATELY THE THREAT CONTINUES HIGH. HE THEN RECOUNTED THE RECENT UNCOVERING BY URUGUAYAN AND ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES OF A NEW OPERATION (WHICH HE IDENTIFIED AS OPR-33) BASED IN BUENOS AIRES AND MONTEVIDEO AND DIRECTED AT THE ASSASSINATION OF KEY LEADERS OF THE PRESENT GOU INCLUDING HIMSELF AND MINISTER OF ECONOMY VEGH VILLEGAS. HE POINTED OUT THAT AS A RESULT HE HAD HAD TO INCREASE HIS OWN PERSONAL SECURITY AND PLACED HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN UNDER GUARD. IN THE COURSE OF THIS PART OF THE DISCUSSION HE CONFIRMED THAT THE NEIGHBORING GOVERNMENTS (BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND CHILE) ARE NOW COOPERATING MORE CLOSELY IN THEIR ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN ORDER TO BETTER CONFRONT THE INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF COMMUNIST SUBVERSION AND TERRORISM. HE SAID THIS NECESSITY WAS REALLY UNFORTUNATE AS THEY WOULD PREFER TO DEVOTE EVEN MORE ENERGY TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE AND USE-  
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FUL STRUCTURE OF ECONOMIC, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION TO WHICH THE SAME COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN DEDICATING THEMSELVES.

6. IN A DISCUSSION OF HOW THE GOU MIGHT MAKE CLEAR ITS POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS THE POSSIBILITY OF A STATEMENT BY THE GOU OR BY THE MINISTER WAS REVIEWED BY BOTH THE MINISTER AND ALVAREZ. THEY APPEARED TO AGREE THAT SUCH A CLARIFICATION MIGHT BE USEFUL AND INDICATED THAT SOME SORT OF STATEMENT MIGHT BE SOON FORTHCOMING.

7. TO INQUIRIES CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF INVITATION FOR VISITS BY EITHER OAS OR UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS OR REPRESENTATIVES THE MINISTER WAS NEGATIVE. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM CHILE'S EXPERIENCES THAT, WHILE THE ORIGINAL MOTIVATION FOR SUCH GROUPS MIGHT BE LEGITIMATE, THE MANIPULATION OF THESE GROUPS BY INTERNATIONAL MARXIST FORCES DEDICATED TO THE OVERTHROW OF THE GOU WOULD PRODUCE ONLY MORE NEGATIVE RESULT. HE CITED THE URUGUAYAN EXPERIENCES WITH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO SUPPORT HIS THESIS, ALLEGING THAT THE GOOD INTENTIONS OF AI WERE SUBVERTED BY ANTI-GOU FORCES. ELABORATING ON THIS HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT IF URUGUAY WERE TO MEET EVERY STATED DEMAND OF SUCH ORGANIZATIONS THEY STILL WOULD NOT BE SATISFIED. THE REASON HE SAID IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT THEIR TRUE OBJECTIVE; IT IS RATHER A DEVICE TO ACHIEVE THE REAL PURPOSE OF OVERTHROWING THE GOU AND REVERSING THE EFFORTS IT IS MAKING TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE URUGUAYAN TRADITIONAL WAYS.

8. COMMENT: IT IS APPARENT THAT WE CANNOT EXPECT ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN URUGUAY. THE MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE GOU CONSIDERS ITSELF IN A VIRTUAL STATE OF WAR AGAINST AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE AND THAT IT THEREFORE MUST DEFEND ITSELF AS IT SEES FIT. IN FACT THIS CONVERSATION WOULD SEEM TO

INDICATE A HARDENING OF BLANCO'S POSITION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE  
IN COMPARISON WITH HIS PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR.

THE REASONS FOR THIS SHIFT PROBABLY INCLUDE:

A) THE RECRUDESCENCE OF THE SUBVERSIVE THREAT INCLUDING THE  
ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY,

B) HIS PERSONAL INSECURITY IN THE PRESENT MOVEMENT OF IMPENDING  
POLITICAL CHANGE AS THE NEW PRESIDENT PREPARES TO ASSUME OFFICE  
AT THE END OF AUGUST,

C) THE PRESENCE OF ALVAREZ, ALWAYS KNOWN AS A HARDLINER ON  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE,

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D) THE INCREASING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ANTI-SUB-  
VERSIVE AND ANTI-TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AMONG THE SOUTHERN CONE  
NATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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